

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
February 6, 2014

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Catherine Garnett, Charles Tirone, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Michelle Durocher and David White of the Commission. Also present were Susan Chapnick, Bruce Whelple, Steve Prowten, Wayne Chouinard (Town Engineer), Michelle Hassler of the Cemetery Commission and Blair Hines, landscape architect/designer.

7:45pm – Commission Business:

White/Connors motioned to approve the 1/16/14 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Ecofest will be held on March 29 at Town Hall from 10-2pm. David White will register for a table for volunteers groups, such as our Lands Stewards and ask Cheryl Miller, Land Stewards Coordinator, if she can attend to meet the public.

Mr. Stevens forwarded the **aquatic weed management reports** from Aquatic Control Technology (ACT) for Spy Pond and Hills Pond. The one for the Arlington Reservoir is forthcoming.

The Finance Committee has requested a Fee Funds **transfer** to the General Fund of \$5K to help cover the Administrator's salary. White/Coleman motioned to approve the transfer with the caveat that since amount of fees received each year varies, there is no guarantee the same amount can be transferred in future fiscal years; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stevens reported that, upon consultation with Douglas Heim, the new Town Counsel, the Conservation Commission does not have to revise the wetlands bylaw in order to **raise or adjust application filing fees**. Ms. Beckwith discussed some of the calculations Mr. Stevens asked her to make about how much time on average she spends on each type of application received, as that will have bearing on what to propose for new fees. Filing fees have not been updated since 2002. She will forward her draft calculations to the board for their consideration. Mr. Stevens also asked for a revised fee comparison chart to include the amounts of the state filing fees, the annual totals of filing fees in the past few years, and the hourly calculations. Ms. Beckwith said that she would attempt to compile the revised information by the next meeting.

8pm **Discussion** - Symmes

This item is continued to 2/27 at 8:45pm. Ms. Garnett reported that the developer wants to continue to have the sales trailer on the Conservation Land until July 1, 2014.

8:15pm **Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Determination** – Lot E Dothan Rd

White/Connors motioned to continue this hearing in order to notify the applicant of the Commission's selection of the peer review consultant to Feb.27 at 8:30pm; motion passed unanimously.

9pm **Discussion** – Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, new columbarium

Mr. Hines and Ms. Hassler presented revised drawings for a columbarium (stone wall holding niches for ashes) for the corner of the Cemetery behind 91 Mystic St. They discussing phases of the project, sequence of installation of the footings, small tree (Amelanchier) planting and paved walkways. They asked about what information the Commission would want in the application and clarification on the abutter notification requirement. The Town DPW will be the applicant.

Mr. Tirone asked for foundation plans, locus, and resources areas. Mr. Stevens asked for a Riverfront alternatives analysis, elevation contours, top of bank of Mill Brook, and subsequent 25, 50, 100, and 200 foot distances.

Commission Business, cont.

Two applicants for **new members** of the board attended this meeting to observe the operation of the Commission. There are potentially two other people interested in membership.

In preparation for the 2/24 Finance Committee hearing on the waterbodies warrant article and \$50K budget request, Ms. Durocher asked the Commission to consider composing responses to potential questions from the Finance Committee and Town Meeting in support of the **Waterbodies** funding. More specifically, the topic of why other waterbodies (besides Spy Pond and the Arlington Reservoir) are not included in this work to date. Demonstrating an effort to survey the needs associated with other town water bodies, such as Mill Brook and Reeds Brook, would likely be well received given interest expressed at last year's warrant article discussions within the Finance Com.

Ms. Garnett asked if the Commission wanted copies of her presentation to the Friends of Spy Pond Park Committee. They will have a site walk in February to review the **Spy Pond Park** shoreline and plantings.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator